

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EURE-00 SS-15 SSO-00 NSC-05 NSCE-00

PRS-01 SAM-01 A-01 /036 W

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O 061632Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY ROME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0944

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE ROME 6539

E.O. 11652: ADS, DECLASS 6/4/75

TAGS: OVIP (PRESIDENT FORD), IT

SUBJECT: PRESIDENTIAL VISIT TO ROME, III: PROPOSED ARRIVAL  
AND DEPARTURE STATEMENTS

REF: A. STATE 103235

B. ROME 6530

### 1. PROPOSED ARRIVAL STATEMENT:

"IT HAS BEEN FAR TOO LONG SINCE I HAVE BEEN IN THE HISTORIC AND ETERNAL CITY OF ROME. WHEN PRESIDENT LEONE, IN THE COURSE OF HIS EFFECTIVE STATE VISIT TO THE UNITED STATES LAST SEPTEMBER, EXTENDED AN INVITATION TO MRS. FORD AND ME TO VISIT ITALY, I HAPPILY ACCEPTED. IT IS, THEREFORE, WITH EXTREME PLEASURE THAT WE ARE HERE TODAY. OUR ONLY REGRET IS THAT OUR VISIT MUST BE SO SHORT.

"JUST A FEW DAYS AGO, AS MEMBERS OF THE ATLANTIC ALLIANCE, YOUR PRIME MINISTER AND I HAVE PARTICIPATED IN TWO DAYS OF EXTENSIVE MULTILATERAL CONSULTATIONS AND DISCUSSIONS IN BRUSSELS ON MATTERS OF OUR MUTUAL SECURITY AND WELFARE. THESE IMPORTANT MEETINGS HAVE BROUGHT ME TO THE EUROPEAN CONTINENT FOR MY FIRST VISIT AS PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES.

"BEFORE RETURNING HOME I FELT IT EXTREMELY IMPORTANT TO COME TO ITALY TO EMPHASIZE THE SPECIAL TIES BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND ITALY AND TO CONTINUE THE BILATERAL CONSULTATIVE PROCESS WHICH IS NORMAL BUT ESSENTIAL BETWEEN COUNTRIES SHARING  
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A COMMON HERITAGE AND INTERESTS. I AM HERE TODAY TO REAFFIRM

AMERICA'S SPECIAL RELATIONSHIP WITH ITALY AND THE CONTINUED AMERICAN COMMITMENT TO ITALY'S WELL-BEING AND TO ITS DEMOCRATIC GOVERNMENT."

2. PROPOSED DEPARTURE STATEMENT:

"MRS. FORD AND I UNHAPPILY TAKE OUR LEAVE FROM THIS BEAUTIFUL CITY AFTER ONLY A ONE-DAY VISIT. FORTUNATELY ITALY IS A COUNTRY WHERE IMMEDIATELY UPON ARRIVAL, ONE FEELS THE GRACIOUSNESS AND WARMTH OF THE ITALIAN PEOPLE AS EVIDENCED BY ITS LEADERS. THIS HAS NOT COME AS A SURPRISE TO MRS. FORD AND ME SINCE, IN COMING TO ITALY, WE HAD NOT COME TO A FOREIGN COUNTRY BUT TO VISIT FRIENDS WHO SHARE A COMMON DESTINY. MY VISIT HAS BEEN PRODUCTIVE AND USEFUL AS WELL AS PLEASURABLE. OUR DISCUSSIONS HAVE BEEN WIDE-RANGING ON A VARIETY OF MATTERS OF OUR MUTUAL INTEREST AND CONCERN. I HOPE THAT THEY HAVE SERVED TO SOLIDIFY AND REVITALIZE THE SPECIAL RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN ITALY AND AMERICA. WE HAVE MET AT A TIME WHEN SOME ARE QUESTIONING AMERICA'S RESOLVE AND ITS COMMITMENTS TO ITS TRADITIONAL ALLIES. I TRUST THAT THE SYMBOLIC AND SUBSTANTIVE ASPECTS OF MY VISIT AND DISCUSSIONS HERE IN ITALY PROVIDE AMPLE EVIDENCE OF AMERICA'S STEADFAST SUPPORT OF ITALY AND ITS EUROPEAN PARTNERS.

"LET NO ONE EVER DOUBT THE STRENGTH OF THE BONDS BETWEEN OUR TWO COUNTRIES -- THEY HAVE BEEN SUSTAINED AND WILL BE SUSTAINED NOT ONLY BY THE AMERICAN BLOOD SHED HERE BUT ALSO BY THE ITALIAN BLOOD WHICH CONTINUALLY FLOWS THROUGH THE HEART OF AMERICA.

"MRS. FORD AND I SAY "ARRIVEDERCI," WITH THE HOPE THAT INDEED WE WILL SEE EACH OTHER AGAIN SOON." VOLPE

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## Message Attributes

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**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
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**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** n/a  
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**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** GolinoFR  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
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**Reference:** 75 STATE 103235  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** GolinoFR  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 04 JUN 2003  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <04 JUN 2003 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <05 JUN 2003 by GolinoFR>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
05 JUL 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** PRESIDENTIAL VISIT TO ROME, III: PROPOSED ARRIVAL AND DEPARTURE STATEMENTS  
**TAGS:** OVIP, IT, (FORD, GERALD R)  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006